



What I Want To Be!

I want to be an Arborist!

Do you like to climb trees? If climbing trees and taking care of the largest plants on earth sounds like fun, then a career in arboriculture is perfect for you!

Arborists are specialists who focus on the planting, care and maintenance of individual trees in order to improve tree health, growth and asthenics. They know about the needs of a large variety of tree species and are trained with the proper techniques to take care of them.

Here's some of the jobs they do:

- Identify trees.
- Prune trees and shrubs to maintain health, appearance and address safety concerns.
- Remove trees when necessary as a result of pests, disease, or other safety issues where saving the tree is not possible.
- Plant trees that are specific to the location's geography, geology, topography and climate.
- Perform pest and disease management to help the trees survive.
- Perform emergency tree care after natural disasters, such as limbs that have broken or trees are uprooted as a result of strong storms.
- Modify, fertilize, and aerate soils to provide better tree growth.
- Handle and maintain vehicles and equipment.
- Secure the area and operate equipment for climbers.
- Inform people of proper tree care techniques.

Arborists may work by themselves, for a private organization or with a natural resources related government agency. Employers may include - landscape businesses, tree care companies, utility companies, forestry consulting firms, and parks and recreation departments to name a few.

Arborists will need a bachelors (college) degree in forestry, ecology, horticulture, landscape architecture or a similar field. Many arborists seek certification from the International Society of Ar-



boriculture. Certified arborists must complete a certain amount of training and pass an extensive exam to demonstrate their knowledge of the field. Certification is voluntary, but it does represent a greater commitment and understanding of the profession.

When your certified, you can also choose to become certified within a specialized area such as: utility specialist, municipal specialist, tree worker climber specialist, tree worker aerial lift specialist or master arborist.